

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 13 and 14 are amended. New claim 28 is added. Claims 1-24 and 26-28 remain in the application. Reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the remarks to follow is requested.

Claims 3, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

During an Interview held on December 16, 2003 with Examiner Ricky Mack, agreement was reached to amend claims 1, 3, 5, 13-14 to put the pending claims in form for allowance. Such claims are so amended in this response.

However, claims 3 and 14 are further amended to include the word "substantially" added before the last word of each claim. Applicant notified the Examiner, subsequent to the December 16, 2003 interview, that the claims would be presented with this additional language. The Examiner stated he would review such additional language to claims 3 and 14 and make a decision as to whether this affects the allowance of such claims. The Examiner further stated that if he had a problem with the additional language, he would give the Applicant a call to discuss the claims further. Applicant appreciates the same.

Applicant greatly appreciates the time and consideration that Examiner Mack has given this case, and awaits approval of the claims, or a telephone call to discuss the claims further.

This application is now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview prior to issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 1-15-04

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